

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2400
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2005
IMPORT OF HAM RADIA EQUIPMENT
Thomas Shri P.C.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ham Radio Operators of India played a vital role in establishing the communication link between the Islands of andaman & Nicobar and the main land in recent Tsunami disaster management and also in the earlier natural calamity/ when all other means of communications had failed, which has been duly recognized by the various authorities of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and other Southern States in the country;

(b) whethere the Government propose to import of used Ham radio equipment without import duty to promote this dying service due to lack of equipment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S.PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Yes, Sir. Radio communication was established by Ham Radio Operators of India from Andaman and Nicobar Islands after tsunami disaster. About 15 Ham Radio Operators assisted local authorities in andaman and Nicobar Islands for such communications in connection with relief operations.

(b) Specified wireless apparatus, accessories and parts imported by licensed amateur radio operator attract a concessional customs duty of only 5%, subject to a overall value limit of Rs. 75,00. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to fully exempt Ham Radio Equipment from the levy of import duty.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.